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SYMINGTON

VIEW BY SYMINGTON

## Missile Gap Held CIA 'Brain Child'

WASHINGTON, March 25 (AP)—The missile gap came bouncing back into the news today on a senator's statement that it was created and destroyed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

A Cabinet member agreed, in effect, and said those who talked of such a gap in 1960 did so in good faith.

In the 1960 presidential campaign, Democrats charged the Eisenhower administration had permitted Soviet Russia to open a wide gap in nuclear missile strength.

### GOP Counter Charges

Last year, after President Kennedy took office, the missile gap apparently vanished and this brought Republican counter-charges that Democrats deliberately misrepresented facts and created the missile gap out of whole cloth for political ends.

A published volume of hearings by the Senate Armed Services Committee included testimony by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. He was explaining why he now believes the United States can cope with nuclear attack by Russia. This included estimates of Russian long-range strategic power.

Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo., who in 1960 was among Democrats who contended the Eisenhower administration had permitted a gap to develop, used

McNamara's remarks as an occasion to present a sort of timetable on the downward revision of estimates of Soviet strength.

### Estimates of Intent

Symington said that "in 1958 and 1959 we were given an estimate of the number of ICBMs the Russians would have in fiscal year 1961," in February 1960 the then secretary of defense announced that in the future figures would be based on estimates of intent instead of capability. In February, the estimate was cut 66 per cent, said Symington. Then, Symington said, the timetable ran like this:

In August 1960, the Central Intelligence Agency estimate of Soviet missile strength was reduced 4 per cent; in June 1961 it was removed again "so that it was only 15 per cent of what it had been estimated as but a few months before."

In September 1961—"all of this under the previous management of the Central Intelligence Agency and the 24 advisory groups" — it dropped again by 96.5 per cent from the estimate made 19 months before.

### Questions CIA Factor

Referring to McNamara's testimony that intelligence was a factor in calculating the U.S. requirements and Soviet strength, Symington told McNamara:

"I would ask you to file for the record the justification of your statement that intelligence is taken into consideration.

"I am in no sense critical. It is rather fascinating. Somebody said it is the best exhibition of 'how to win without trying.'

"The missile gap was created by the Central Intelligence Agency.

"If it has been eliminated, it has now been eliminated by the Central Intelligence Agency."